

RADIO SCRIPT OF SENATOR THURMOND'S REGULAR WEEKLY BROADCAST  
RECORDED ON MARCH 21, 1957, ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SO-CALLED  
CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS, ETC.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

The action of the Constitutional Rights subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee in approving a so-called civil rights bill causes me great concern.

I have written a letter to Senator Eastland of Mississippi, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, urging him to call new hearings on the bills by the full Committee. I pointed out that the bill reported favorably by the subcommittee would severely restrict the rights of individuals and the States.

In my opinion, the holding of further hearings on the bills is essential and necessary. The vote in the subcommittee to approve the proposals was only 4 to 2.

On the question of making it possible to deny the right of trial by jury in civil rights cases/when the United States Department of Justice enters the case, the vote was 3 to 3. Actually, therefore, the subcommittee was split exactly in half on this vital question.

I do not believe the American people want to see the Senate of the United States -- or even its Judiciary Committee -- approve a law to deny the right of trial by jury. This is a fundamental right, guaranteed to every American by the Constitution.

All of the provisions of the civil rights bill approved by the subcommittee/are objectionable and obnoxious to me. I am ~~making the argument against~~ *strongly opposing* the denial of the right to trial by



jury/because I consider it to be a blow at a basic principle on which this nation was founded.

I am confident that Senator Eastland will not lightly pass over the objections/which have been voiced to the so-called civil rights bills. But I wanted him to know/how South Carolinians feel about the bills.

Also, I would like for the full Senate Judiciary Committee to have the opportunity/to hear the views of some South Carolinians. Those who appeared before the subcommittee did a magnificent job.

During the past week, the Senate has been considering a bill dealing with banking laws.

One of the problems that came up in connection with this legislation was whether federal authorities, such as the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, should have authority over mergers of purely State banks.

I was able to secure a letter from the General Counsel of the FDIC.

"I wish to assure you on behalf of the Corporation," he said, "that it will not consent to any transaction, under this section of the law, involving a State bank, without the prior approval of the State banking authority, if such approval is required by State law." *am including this letter in the Congressional Record as proof of this recognition of the right of the States.* ~~I would have liked to have had that promise made a part of the law, but it was impossible to get enough support to do so.~~

This week I have been holding hearings as chairman of the Veterans Affairs subcommittee. The bills under consideration *propose* ~~would~~



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~~extend~~ <sup>to extend</sup> to veterans of peace-time service/ various benefits now received under the G. I. Bill of Rights by Korean War veterans.

Those who have testified include: Veterans Administration officials, Defense Department officials, General Hershey of Selective Service, Senator Case of South Dakota and Senator Morse of Oregon.

The hearings will probably continue for another month/ before the subcommittee begins to consider ~~what provisions should be~~ <sup>whether legislation</sup> ~~included in the legislation.~~ <sup>is needed</sup>

This week I have also been busy with the Auto Marketing Practices subcommittee hearings. We are continuing to study financing practices of the credit companies/ to determine if legislation is needed to protect the public more adequately.

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington. Thank you for listening and this station for making this time available each week.

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